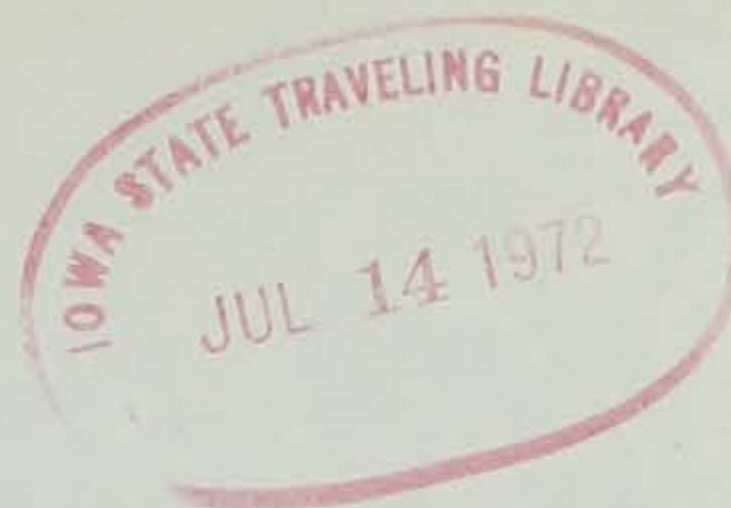




JULY, 1972



FREE JXST+OST+ITRVL+  
ST TRAVELING LIB COMP  
ST HISTORICAL BLDG  
DES MOINES IA 50319



# conservationist







JULY, 1972



# conservationist

Roger Sparks, Editor

Wayne Lonning, Photographer

Jerry Leonard, Photographer

## Page CONTENTS

- 2 Family Cabins, Family Fun
- 6 Creel Survey
- 8 Iowa Lakes Charted
- 11 Pollution Detectives
- 12 Scott County Park
- 14 Rabbits in the Garden
- 14 Campfire Cookery
- 15 Classroom Corner



Fred A. Priewert, Director

Commissioners:

William E. Noble—Oelwein, Chairman

Ed Weinheimer—Greenfield, Vice Chm.

Jim D. Bixler—Council Bluffs

Les Licklider—Cherokee

Dr. Keith A. McNurlen—Ames

John G. Link—Burlington

## Iowa Conservationist

Vol. 31 July, 1972 No. 7

Published monthly by the Iowa Conservation Commission, State Office Building, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579, manuscripts, mail items) to the above address.

Subscription price: two years at \$2.00  
four years at \$3.50

Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa. (No Rights Reserved).



# family fun family fun

By Roger Sparks

What is a week of family fun? To many Iowans it's a trip to some distant fishing resort, a vacation in the sunny South, sight-seeing in the Rockies or maybe visiting relatives back East. A week of family fun to most is simply a change from the daily routine — going somewhere just to "get away."

But why go so far? Who needs an exhausting automobile ride? Several of Iowa's state parks have cabins that offer an ideal family retreat. The cabins are situated in wooded areas of Backbone, Palisades-Kepler, Pine Lake, Lake of Three Fires, Springbrook, Lacey-Keosauqua and Lake Wapello State Parks. Most of these rustic cabins aren't new or plush but they offer peaceful shade, quiet nights and honest fun. They're much closer than far away Florida and the grass is just as green.

Facilities in each cabin include one double bed, one couch that folds into another double, running water, flush toilets, modern refrigerators, bottle gas cooking stoves (with ovens), pots, pans, dishes and silverware. Some cabins have showers and more are



# ycabins yfun

being constructed. Renters must provide their own bedding, pillows and linens.

Although these cabins aren't motels, they do offer pleasant scenery and solitude at a reasonable price. They accommodate four comfortably and cots, where available, are supplied for additional guests at a charge of 50c per day. Reservations are taken on a weekly basis at a cost of \$50 per week, for a maximum period of two weeks. They may be rented daily for \$10 on a first come first served basis. In addition to the regular rentals, two large cabins are available at Palisades Kepler, that accommodate eight and rent for \$60 per week or \$12 per day.

There is no set opening or closing dates for family cabins. The season generally lasts from early May to late September, but the cabins are not heated and are opened and closed as the demand dictates. Most receive heavy use during the "school's out" days from Memorial Day through August.

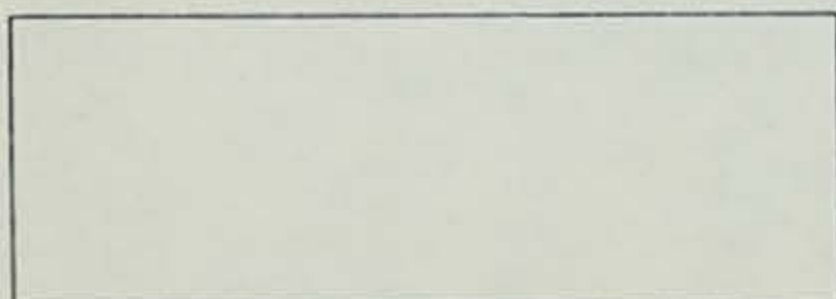
Reservations are accepted by the respective park officer starting January 1. If advanced planning for a specific week during







Springbrook beach area. Family fun and relaxation available to users of family cabins in seven state parks.

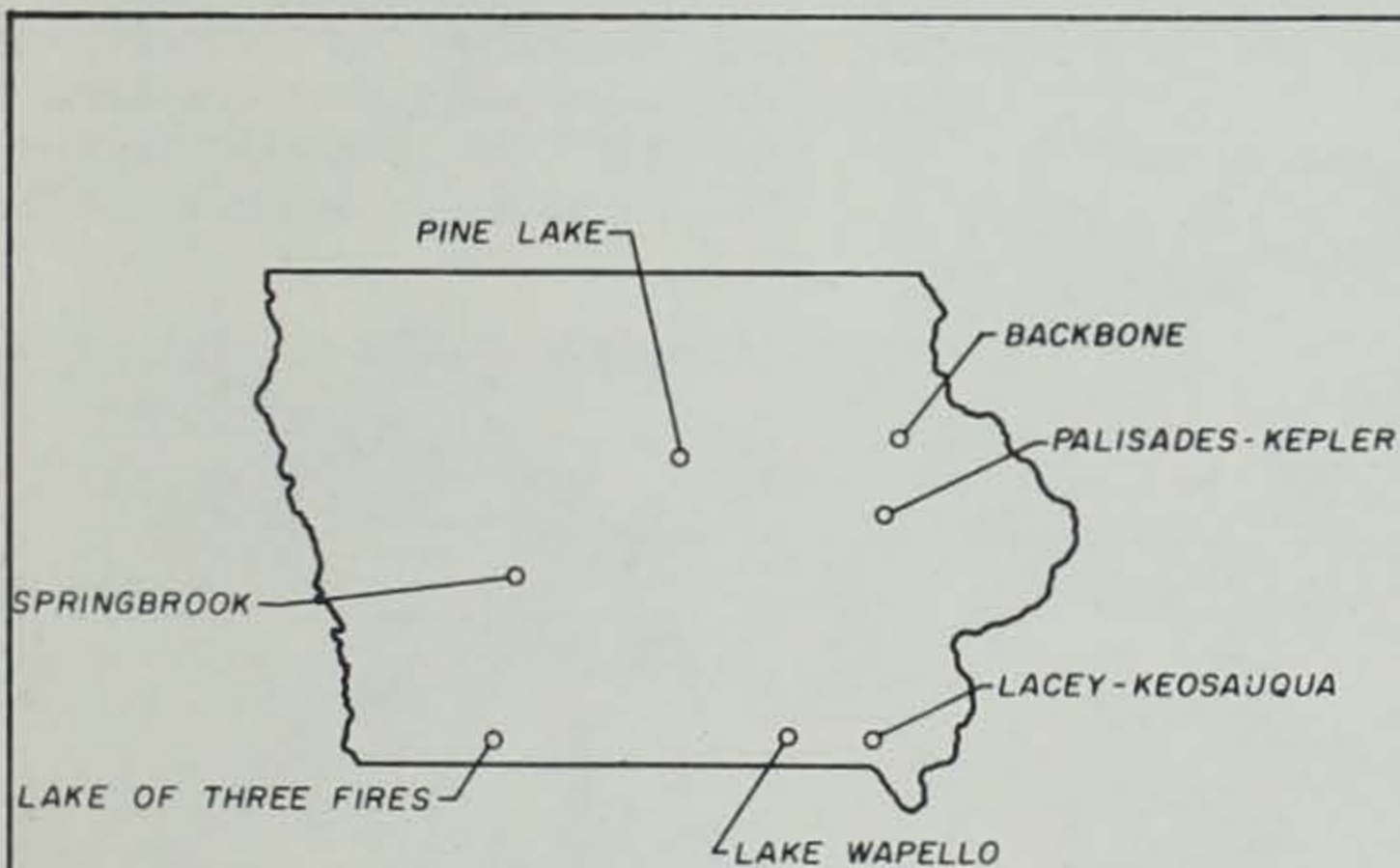


June, July, or August is necessary, reservations should be made early. However, if vacation planning can be more flexible, a weekly rental can sometimes be arranged on short notice even during the busy season. Most cabins are available in all parks during May and September.

These are great seasons for hiking, fishing and nature study but just remember to bring plenty of warm blankets for chilly spring and fall nights.

The following lists the number of family cabins in each park and who to contact for reservations: ☆





Area	No. of Cabins	County	Address—State Park Officer
Backbone	18	Delaware	Dundee
Lake Wapello	12	Davis	Drakesville
Springbrook	6	Guthrie	Guthrie Center
Lake of Three Fires	6	Taylor	Bedford
Lacey-Keosauqua	6	Van Buren	Keosauqua
Pine Lake	4	Hardin	Eldora
Palisades-Kepler	6	Linn	Mount Vernon



Early morning tranquility at Lake Wapello





# CREEL

*By Don Bonneau*  
District Fisheries Supervisor

"How's fishing?" is undoubtedly the most frequent question asked by fishermen. The question dates to antiquity and certainly preceded modern fish management efforts; but it will always be important to progressive fish management programs.

Fish management biologists are technically trained in the many and varied facets of aquatic biology, but by visiting with fishermen they relate the resource to their primary objective — angler success.

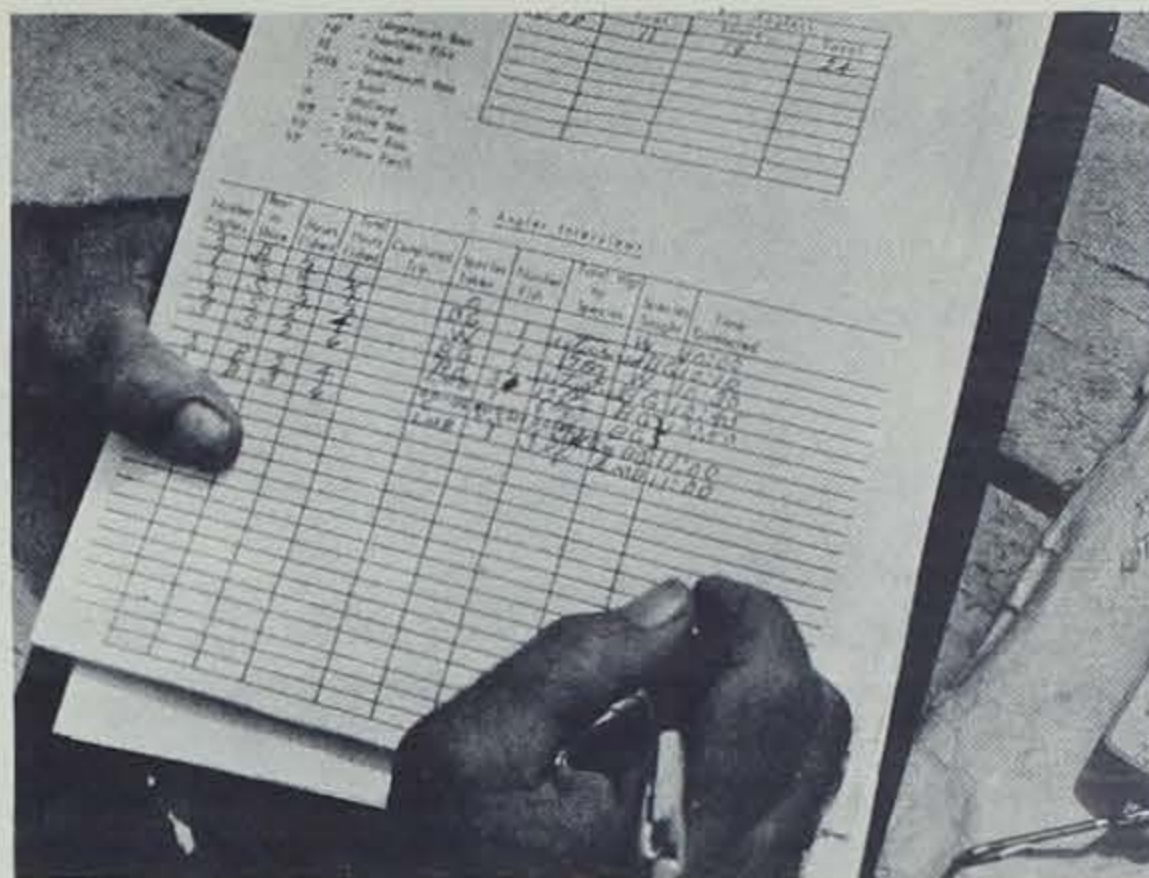
These brief visits are called creel surveys. The main purpose of this type survey is to determine what the angler is catching. Number, pounds and species of fish caught are the ultimate evaluation of efforts to improve or maintain the fisheries resource. Failure of the angler to catch fish



Creel surveys will help put more fish on their lines.



# L SURVEY



is often the first sign management is needed.

Creel surveys vary in complexity from the simple question, "How's fishing?" to a high degree of sophistication involving mathematical formulas and computer science. However, all creel surveys of the more complex designs determine, among other things, fishing quality, fishing pressure and yield.

Fishing quality is simply a measure of how good or bad fishing is in a particular body of water. Number and pounds of fish caught per hour of fishing effort and average size of each species are indices used in this determination. The species of fish sought by the angler is also important; hence, the quality of bass fishing will be determined from information obtained from

bass fishermen, rather than from anglers fishing for catfish.

Fishing pressure is the amount of fishing exerted on a body of water and is usually expressed as fishermen hours per surface acre.

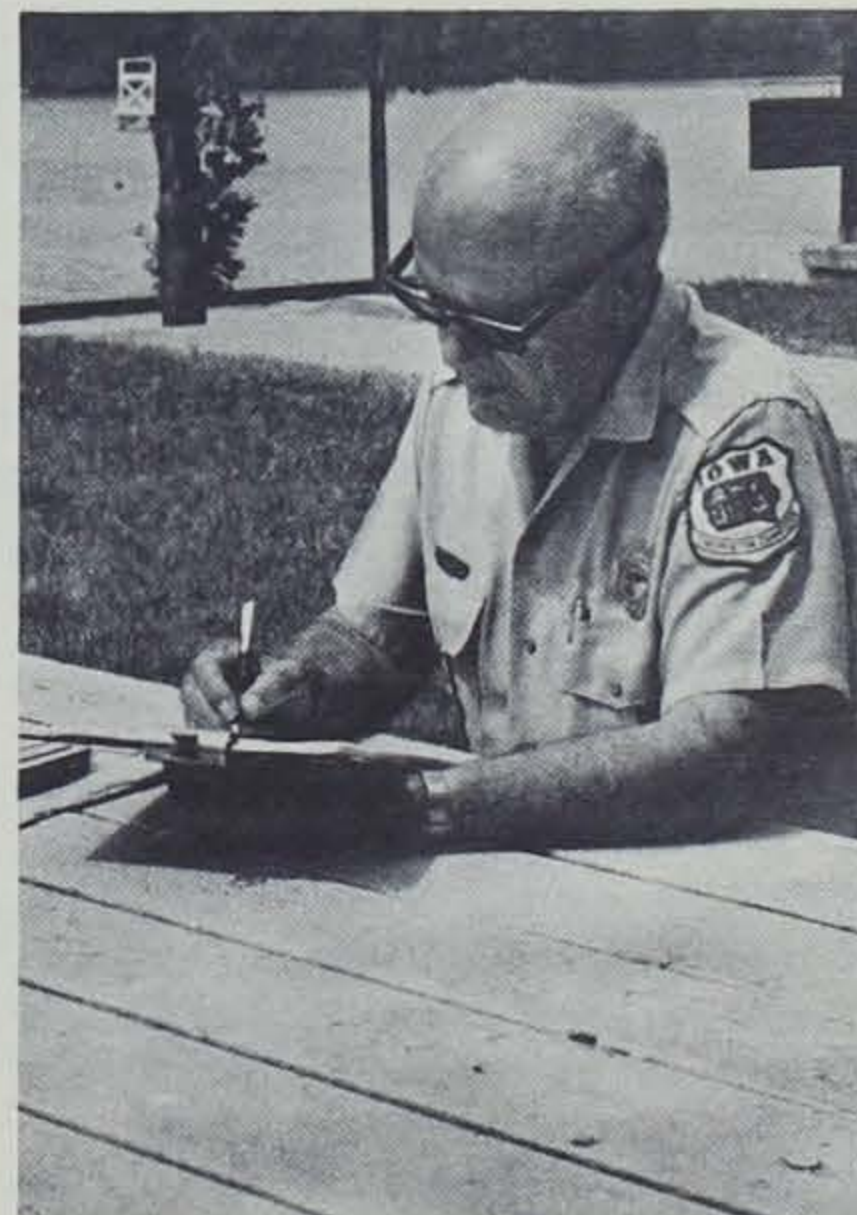
Harvest or yield is the total pounds of fish removed from a body of water. A knowledge of harvest is important because lakes can be overfished. The percent of the total harvest which each species contribute is also important. For example, for every pound of largemouth bass taken from a body of water containing a bass-bluegill fishery, at least five pounds of bluegill should be removed.

If angler success (harvest) is the primary objective of management it is also a major factor affecting the fishery. The angler influences the fish population by

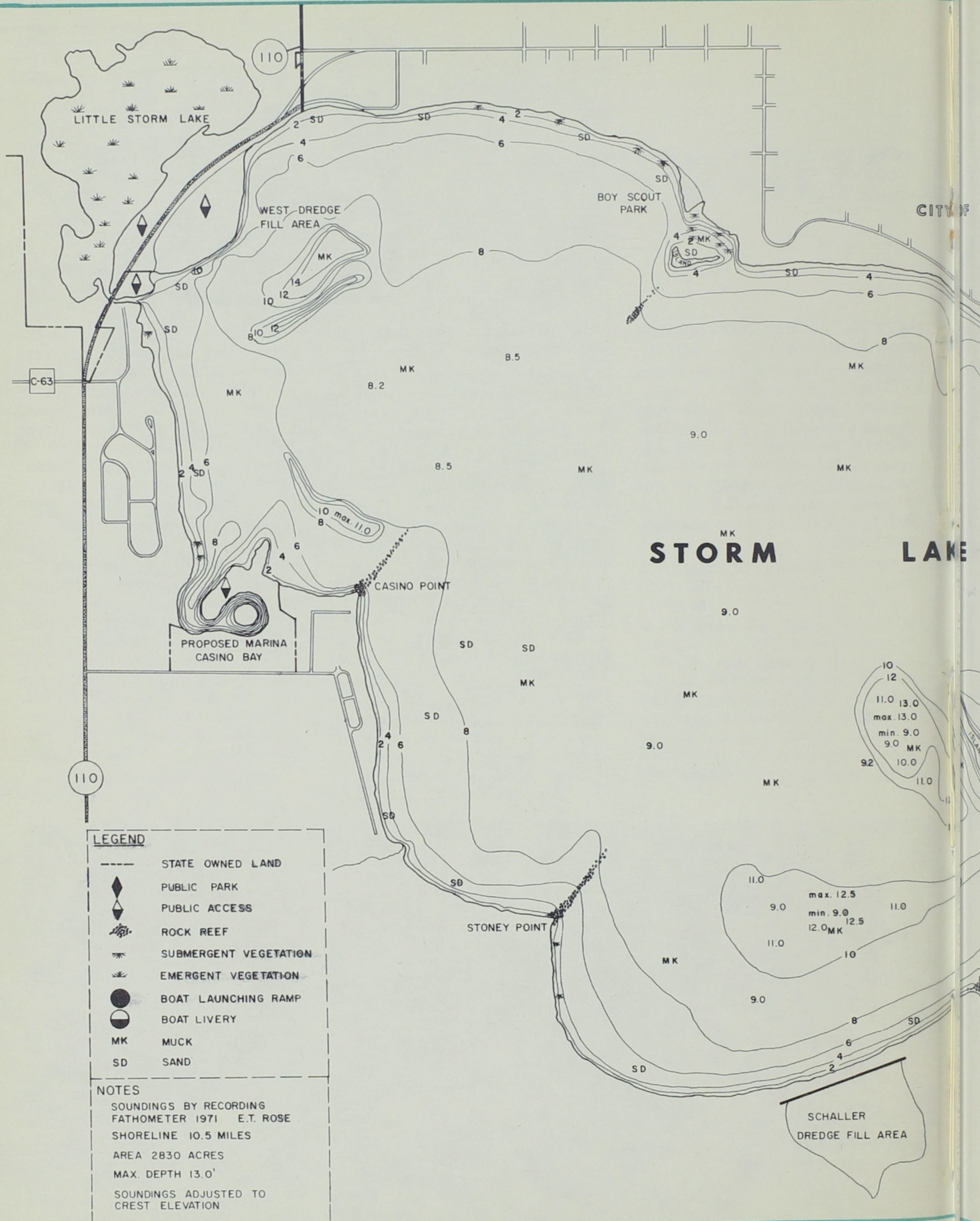
contributing to the total mortality. Fishing and natural mortality may be quite different. Natural mortality normally claims smaller and weaker fish while fishing mortality often selects larger fish. The fishermen may also remove a proportionately larger number of one species than the other (e.g. selecting bass over bluegill).

Combining information concerning quality of fishing, fishing pressure and harvest with his knowledge of the body of water, structure of the fish populations, predator-prey relationships and standing crop (pounds of fish present in a body of water) the manager can determine if fish populations are in balance, underfished or overfished. Promotional efforts to increase fish-

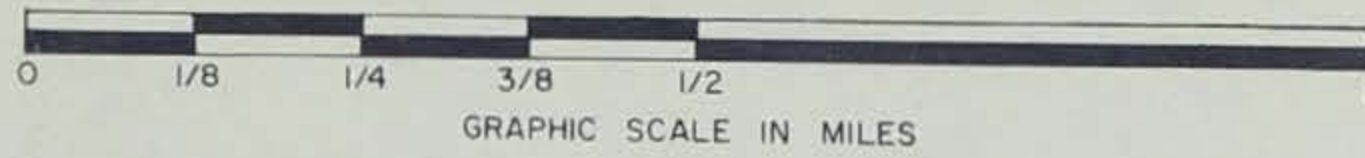
(Continued on Page 10)



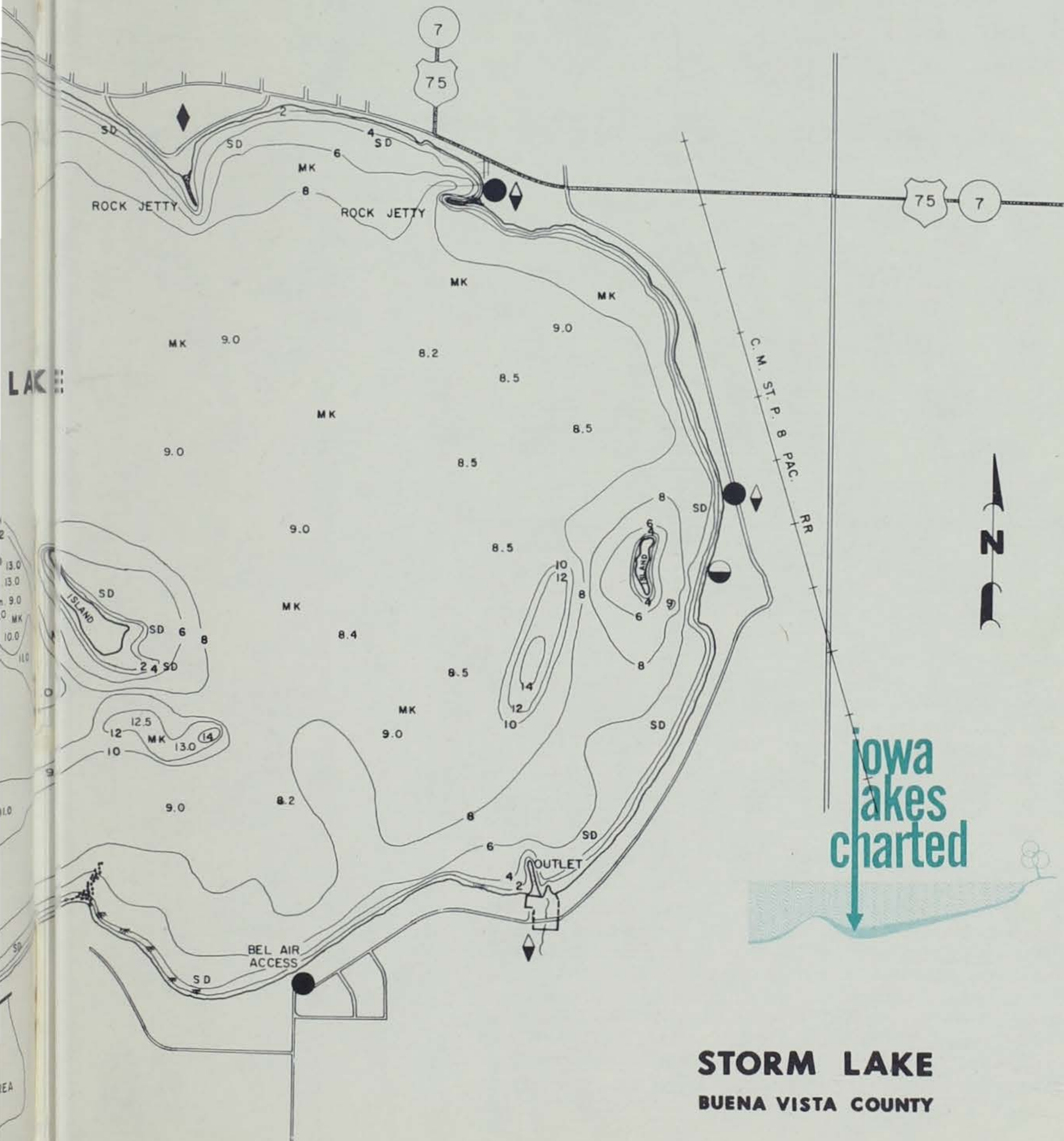








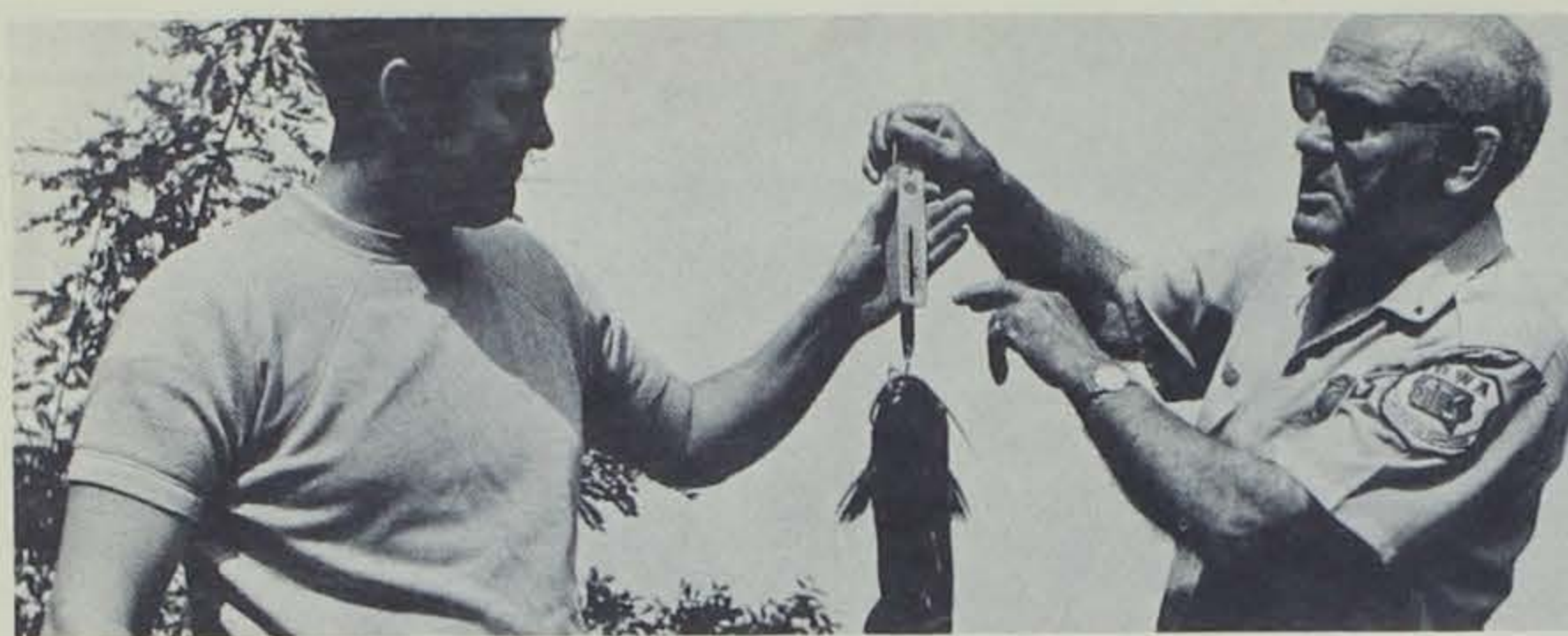
CITY OF STORM LAKE



# STORM LAKE

BUENA VISTA COUNTY





## CREEL SURVEY . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

ing pressure may be needed to help remedy underfishing. Overfishing or selective fishing for a particular species may cause unbalance in predator-prey relations. The creel survey is one management tool used to determine these problems.

Anglers fishing Smith Lake, Sioux County; Mariposa Lake, Jasper County; Hickory Grove Lake, Story County; Swan Lake, Carroll County; Don Williams Lake, Boone County; Arrowhead Lake, Pottawattamie County; Cold Springs Lake, Cass County; Easter Lake, Polk County and others will be surveyed to determine the ultimate success of the catfish cage program. Experimentation and one year practical application indicates channel catfish can be successfully reared in cages; however, the quality of fishing generated will measure final success of the cage rearing program. The catfish fishery produced by lakes stocked with different densities of fish (Number per acre) will be compared to determine the stocking rate (fish per acre) that provides good "cat" fishing.

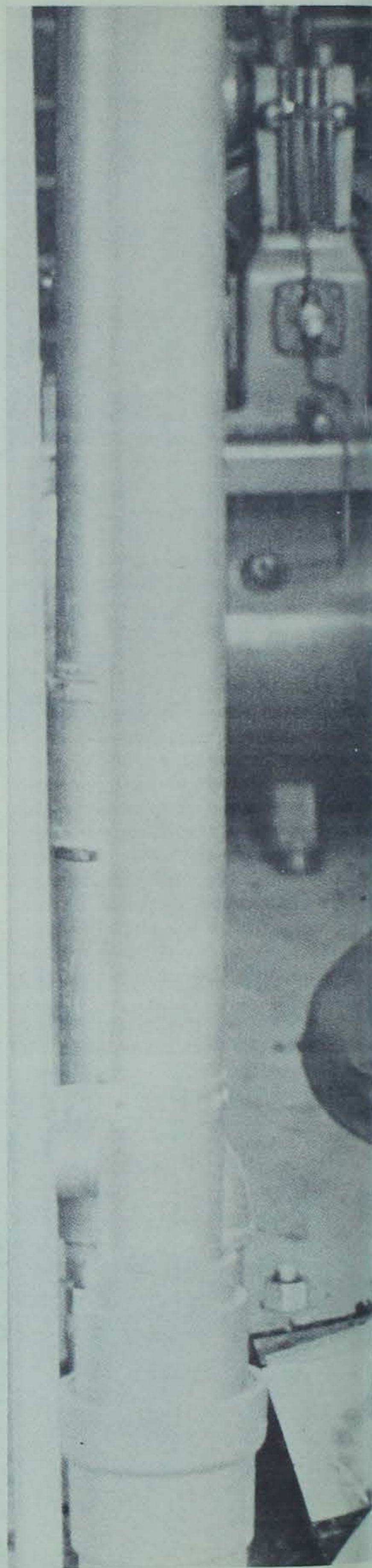
Creel surveys can be used as a tool to assist other fish management programs. This spring northern pike were netted, tagged and released in Bays Branch Lake in Guthrie County. A similar tagging program was used to mark walleyes in Lake Macbride, Johnson County. Creel surveys will help recover tagged fish and allow estimation of the total number of pike and walleye present in the respective lakes. Comparisons of the total pike and walleye populations with the number caught by anglers will

aid management of these and similar fisheries.

Surveys of fishing provided by various northeast Iowa streams will help evaluate the put-and-take trout fishery. Cost-benefit analysis of the program requires knowledge of the number of fish caught. Production cost will give an accurate cost of trout stocked, but as in any put-and take fishery, the production costs are reflected in only those fish placed in the creel. With this type of fishery, the manager must attempt to maximize the harvests. By successfully meeting this objective, he reduces the cost of the individual fish creeled.

Fishermen surveys are the only methods the fisheries manager has to determine the economic value of the recreation he is generating. It is difficult to determine a dollar value of a quiet trip to a favorite trout stream, secluded lake or farm pond, but the fisheries manager must be cognizant of both the economic and aesthetic value of the resource he is managing.

The fine cooperation of anglers has been responsible for much of the success of creel survey programs. This degree of cooperation plus survey efforts of conservation officers, park officers, wildlife managers and county conservation board personnel have allowed more intense management of a greater number of fisheries. The information obtained from present surveys will allow comparison of fishing in various waters and aid in the evaluation of specific fisheries programs. Ultimately, the creel survey can serve to improve fishing in certain areas and maintain good success in others. ☆





# pollution detectives

Iowa Conservation Commission park officers are currently being trained as "pollution detectives." Potable water and wastewater treatment courses are now required of officers in all state parks. Park officers took the standard course provided by the State Board of Health on wastewater treatment in March and will attend the three day potable water testing course in October.

Joe Brill, superintendent of state parks, commented on the program, "In the past, testing has been done in our parks, but now more sophisticated processes are involved and additional knowledge is necessary." The training received by these officers will serve to further insure park visitors safe drinking water and sanitary, non-polluting wastewater treatment.

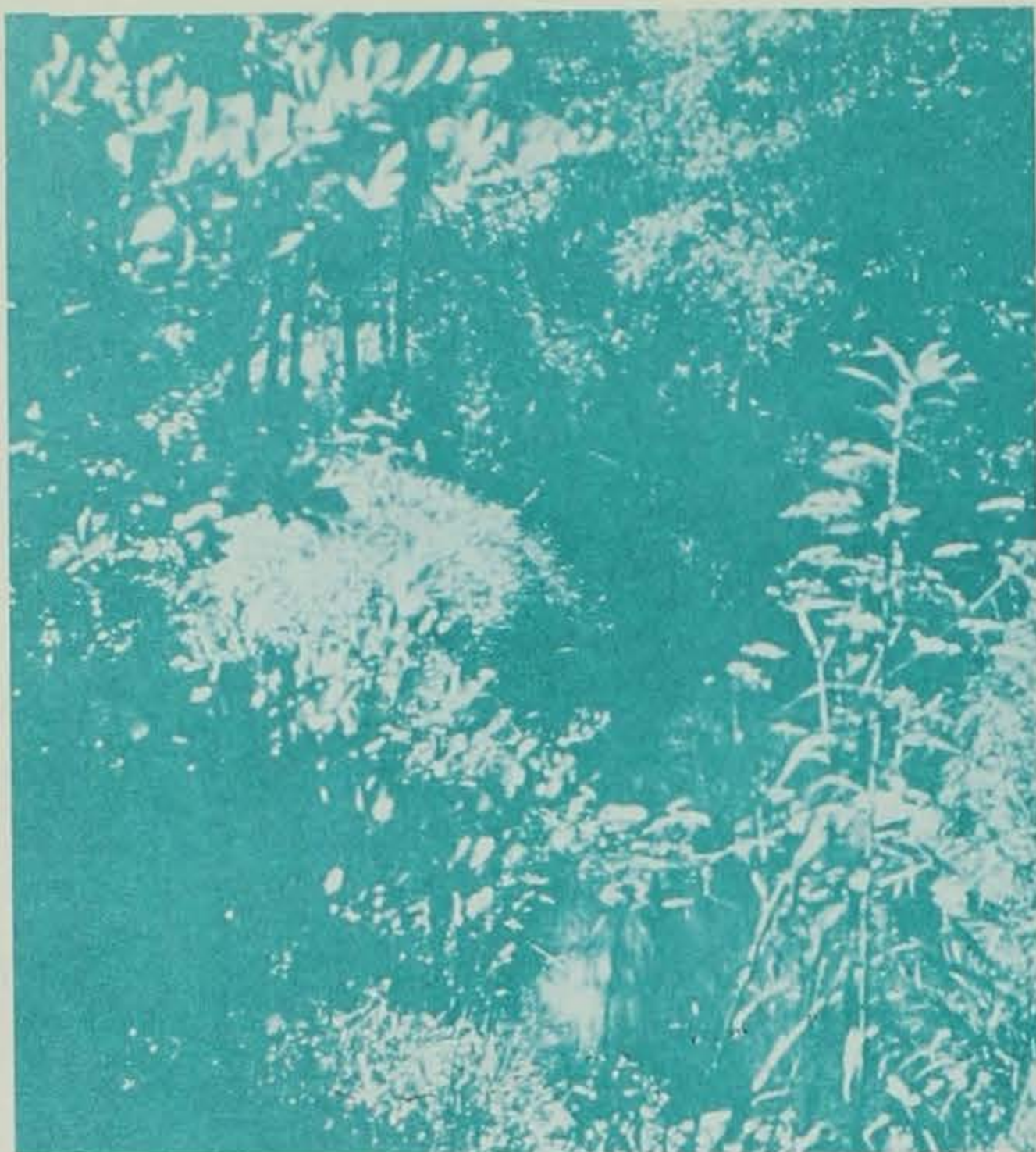
Increased public use of state parks has caused the need for more water quality and wastewater treatment spending. In an effort to handle potable water and wastewater treatment demands, state park facilities are hooked on to city lines where possible. Where city lines are not available, waste stabilization lagoons must be constructed to handle wastewater treatment and modern water treatment facilities are built to provide pure, safe water for human consumption. Waste stabilization lagoons are the complete retention type which cannot overflow into rivers and streams. The expensive water treatment facilities filter softer chlorinate drinking water and are equipped with faucets at the various stages of the process for testing and sampling.

The park officer tests both the potable water supply and the lagoons daily.

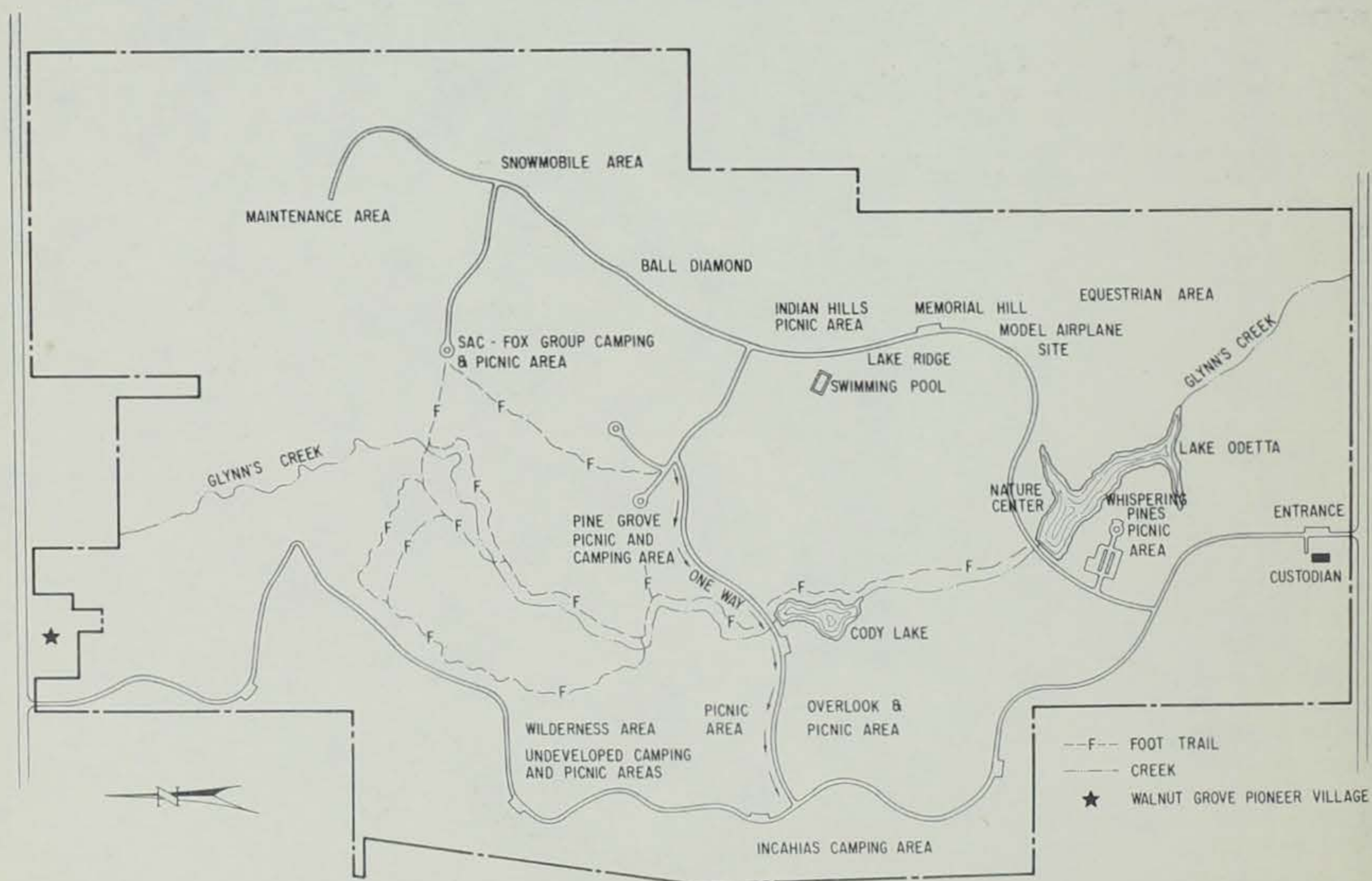
"If problems arise," Brill said, "qualified personnel will discover them and see that appropriate action is taken." ☆







# SCOTT COUNTY PARK



SCOTT COUNTY PARK





County Parks can have elbow room too. Located nine miles north of Davenport, Scott County Park covers 1,270 acres — one of the largest county owned recreation areas in Iowa. Multiple use is the key to management of the area and increased usage is a measure of the popularity of this concept. Last year an estimated 800,000 people visited the park.

Some of the many facilities include the main feature area (whispering pines shelter) which doubles as a winter sports center, two seven-acre lakes, two developed and two primitive campgrounds, and an olympic size swimming pool. Whispering pines shelter is available on a first-come first-serve basis and overlooks one of the small impoundments. The small lakes are participating in the Iowa Conservation Commission Catfish rearing program and also offer some fair panfishing.

Nature trails wind through the park including the two and one-half mile Glynns Creek nature trail with a map available at the scenic entrance.

There are areas set aside for equestrian trails and radio controlled model airplanes. There

are two ball diamonds with backstops.

Another interesting feature is the display of old stone plaques removed from the former Scott County Courthouse. These plaques were donated by the Scott County Pioneer Settlers Association and contain the names of early settlers.

While the park contains large natural wooded areas, an extensive reforestation program is being pursued. It is the intention of the Scott County Conservation Board to keep much of the park in a primitive state with little or no development. Of course the area supports wildlife the year around, and deer abound.

A small nature center has been started and it will grow as more items are obtained.

Several sites within the park are of interest to history buffs. The Walnut Grove Pioneer Village has been developed on the north boundary of the park. It includes the school, museum, depot, blacksmith shop, general store and log cabin moved from Long Grove and reconstructed by the Scott County Historical Society. The shop and school are original. Visitors find the many antiques

and replicas duplicate an early american settlement.

Snow sports are popular in Scott County Park. Snowmobiles may be rented from a winter concessionaire and ski and sledding slopes are available. A tow rope is not available now but may be included in future developments.

The \$320,000 olympic size swimming pool and facility is one of the finest outdoor pools in Iowa.

Campers can find just about anything they want, choosing from two developed and two primitive areas. The Pine Grove tent and trailer area is the main attraction for campers. Thirty-six pads are available for trailers with electricity at a cost of \$2.50 per day. Tent space is available for \$1.50 per day. A shelter is provided with a large fireplace, flush toilets and hot and cold showers. The Sac-Fox group camping area has been set aside for church organizations, boy scouts, and other youth groups. It has a small shelter with a large fireplace and flush toilets. The new Incarias campground is open and has 50 pads available. Present facilities include a well and pit toilets. Of course campers who prefer to rough it may use the undeveloped areas. ☆



Cottontail rabbits are often an annoying pest in home gardens. Damage to young vegetable plants, especially peas and green beans can be extensive. Certain annual and perennial flowers are also consumed. Each spring we face the same problem, how do we control these pests?

There are several ways to control rabbit damage. Gardens may be protected by fencing. A netting of 1-1½ inch galvanized mesh wire (chicken wire) 2-3 feet high will suffice. To prevent burrowing under the fence, it is advisable to bury six inches of the wire in an L-shape on the outside of the fence.

In areas where fencing is not practical, repellents offer another method of reducing damage. The purpose of a repellent is to make the protected plant less desirable to rabbits. Repellents impart a taste that is disagreeable to humans as well as rabbits. For this reason plant treatment should be stopped a few weeks prior to harvesting for table use.

Chemical repellents cost less than mechanical barriers and are easier to apply. However, as plants must be repeatedly



## Rabbits In the Garden

By Charles Schwartz  
Wildlife Biologist

treated, the total cost is often more than the original cost of mechanical protections. To protect rapidly-growing plants from rabbits in the spring, flowers and garden crops should be retreated at 10-day intervals to cover new growth. Treatments should be re-applied after heavy rains.

There are several home-made repellents which are quite effective. Three commonly used mixtures are: (1) add ½ teaspoon of 40 percent "nicotine sulfate to one quart water; use as a spray, (2) add two teaspoons of nicotine bentonite to one quart water; use as a spray, and (3) tobacco dust, use directly as a dust, apply when plants are moist.

There are also several commercially prepared repellents that will control rabbit damage to garden crops. These products should be available at the local garden supply store or can be purchased

directly from the manufacturer. The U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Branch of Predator and Rodent Control, in Lafayette, Indiana has available a listing of current repellents with the manufacturers addresses.

When preparing a repellent, mix only the amount needed for that treatment. It will take between 20-50 gallons of spray to treat a acre of crop. Only six ounces of dust will treat approximately 100 sq. ft., or 300-500 feet of garden row crop. A good repellent will remove garden plants from the rabbits' list of choice delicacies but not interfere with our own use of the same plant.

### References:

Hayne, Don W. 1949. Test of repellents for protecting gardens against cottontail rabbits. Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station Quarterly Bull. 31(4):434-440.

Lantz, D. E. 1927. Cottontail rabbits in relation to trees and farm crops. U.S.D.A. Farmers Bull. No. 702 14 pp.

Anonymous, 1960. Controlling rabbits. U.S.D.I. Fish and Wildlife Service, Agr. Exp. Stat. Pub. No. 310.

Anonymous. 1962 Repelling rabbits. U.S.D.I. Fish and Service Agr. Exp. Stat. Pub. No. 311.

Anonymous. 1965. Sources of supply: Repellents. U.S.D.I., Fish and Wildlife Surv. Agr. Exp. Stat. Pub. No. 512. ★

Conservation personnel in your area are available to present conservation programs upon request at schools, wildlife club meetings, scout functions and other service club meetings. These services are provided free of charge by the Iowa Conservation Commission.

If you happen to attend the Ida County Fair, the Waterloo Cattle Congress or the State Fair, look for us; we will be there waiting to serve you. As a matter of fact if in your travels this summer you are in Mason City, Rockwell City, Eagle Grove, Estherville, Cherokee, Larchwood, Pocahontas, Orange City, Atlantic, Sibley, Arlington or Lone Tree when their fairs, centennials, or celebrations are going on, look for the men in green with the shoulder patch which says Iowa Conservation Commission.

If you would like to secure one of our exhibits contact any state



## Campfire Cookery

By Dick Ranney

conservation commission employee living in your area and he will be happy to aid you in setting up a conservation program. You may also contact us by writing the Information and Education Section, Iowa Conservation Commission, 300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

All the sections that make up the Conservation Commission are like the ingredients in a watermelon salad; by themselves they

are fair, together they can be terrific.

To show you what we mean here is a recipe for a watermelon salad. Cut the top one-third from a watermelon. Remove the meat with a melon scoop. Put the melon balls in a bowl and chill. Notch the top edge of the large empty melon and allow to stand while preparing the other fruit. Remove the meat from a cantelope and a honey dew melon and put in a bowl to chill. Wash and clean white grapes, Bing cherries (leaving on the stem). Add strawberries that have been rolled in powdered sugar and any other fresh fruit in season. Drain the juice that has accumulated in the rind and bowls of melon balls. Arrange the fruit at random in the rind, cover and chill. Just before serving stick some toothpicks along the notched edge. You will find this melon salad is also terrific. ★





# Classroom Corner

By Curt Powell

Administrator  
Conservation Education Center

Summer is now in full swing and some of us have some extra time on our hands. Last month, our project included making some items that you could use around the house or on a camping trip. This month I would like to visit with you about things you might see on a camping trip or a hike.

Iowa has many beautiful recreation areas where you might hike, swim, or camp. Our state has been richly blessed with scenic spots. Many times, when we go on vacation, we have to look at our pictures to see what we saw while on the road. Wouldn't it be more interesting to be able to identify those plants, animals and trees we see as we travel, instead of trying to remember them later?

In July, we are going to talk briefly about Iowa Prairies and also about trees you might find in Iowa. I would also like to mention how you might go about identifying some of Iowa's trees.

Did you know that Iowa, at one time was a prairie state? Did you know that 5/6 of Iowa was covered with prairie grasses? There are some natural prairie areas left in Iowa. The State has purchased four such natural areas to help familiarize Iowans with that part of their pioneer heritage. These natural prairie areas are scattered about the state, so there may be one close to you. The best way to enjoy the wild flowers in these areas is to get

out and experience this natural phenomenon first hand.

The four prairies and their locations are: Hayden Prairie, four miles west and four and one-half miles north of the Junction of U.S. 63 and Iowa 9 near Cresco; Kalsow Prairie in Pocahontas County north of Manson; Cayler Prairie in Dickinson County; and Sheeder Prairie, west of Guthrie Center in Guthrie County. July is the month that the Prairies are in the height of their glory.

When you are out hiking, a word of caution should be given. There are some plants in Iowa that are poisonous to humans and cause an itching rash. The most common are poison oak and poison ivy. Illustrated above is poison ivy. The old saying "Leaves of three, leave it be" certainly apply here.

There are two types of trees found in Iowa. One is the conifer. It receives its name from the fact it forms "cones." The white pine is a good example.

The other type of tree is the "deciduous" or broad leaf tree. It receives its name from the generally broad, flat leaf that it has. These trees generally shed their leaves in the fall, whereas the conifers do not. The sugar maple is a good example of this.

There are many ways to identify trees. You might identify them by their bark, or leaves, or seeds or shape. Do you know where shagbark hickory gets its name?

Identifying trees involves

memorization and a willingness to learn. You might start by identifying the trees in your own neighborhood. How many types of trees do you have?

You also may want to build a leaf print collection to help you identify trees now and for future reference. It's really quite simple. With a rubber roller, roll out a small amount of printers ink on a glass plate. This helps spread the ink evenly on the roller. Ink the under-side of the leaf using the roller and place the leaf ink side down on a piece of white paper. Cover this with a piece of newspaper (be careful not to shift the leaf under it) and run the roller across it. Remove the newspaper and very carefully lift off the white paper. Your leaf print is on the white paper. Let it dry!

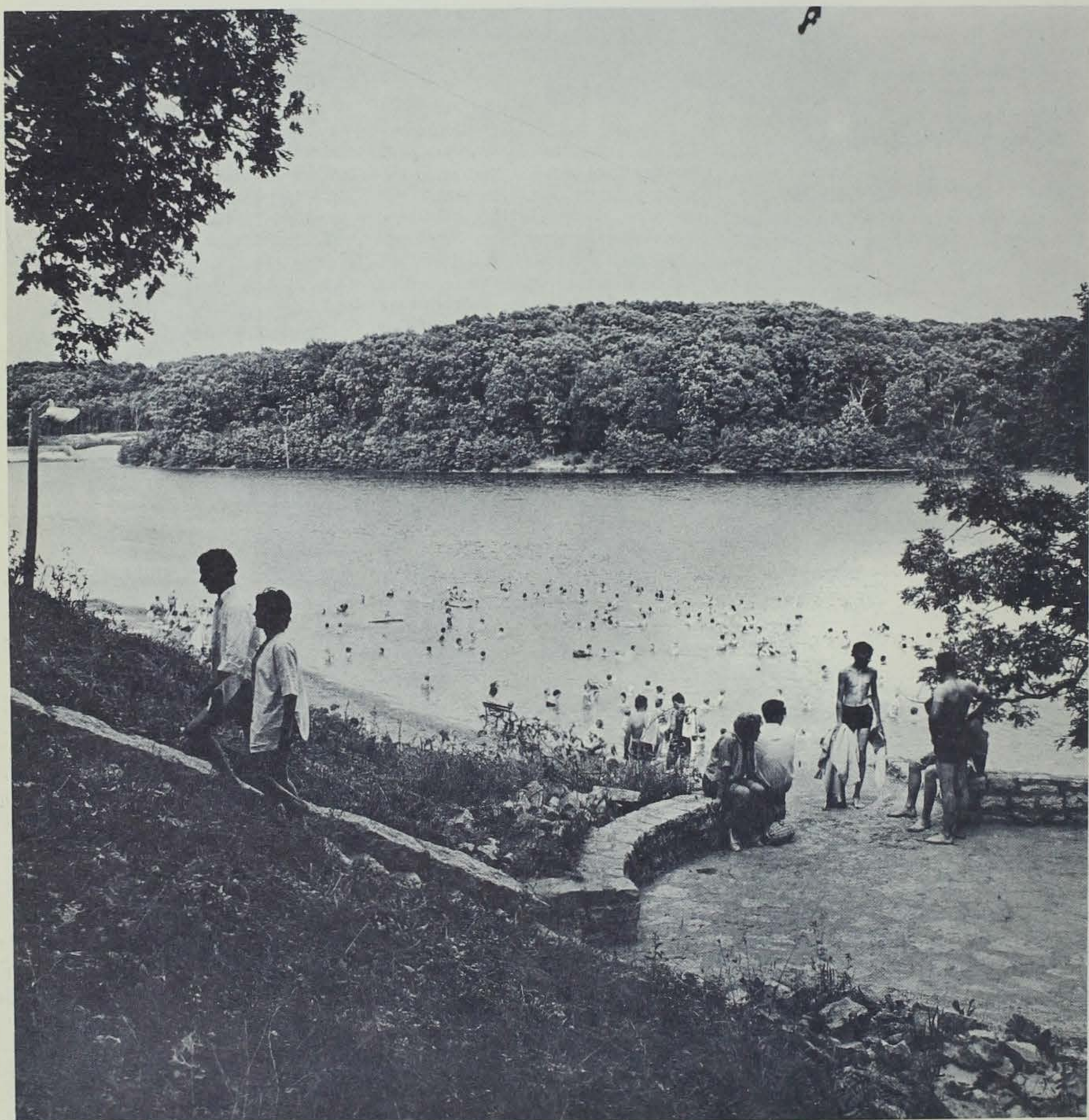
Remember, when picking leaves for your print, or in identifying any plants or trees, it is illegal to do so in a State Park or preserve. These places are for everyone's enjoyment, not just you.

The following publications are available to assist you in your study of Iowa prairies, Iowa wildflowers and trees: "Identifying Iowa Trees," "Iowa Prairies," "Check List of Common Iowa Woodland Flowers," and "Conserving Iowa Wildflowers." These may be obtained free of charge by writing to us c/o Conservation Education Center, Route 1, Box 138C, Guthrie Center, Iowa 50115.★





The Iowa Conservationist, as a contribution to the preservation of our natural resources and the protection of the ecology, is printed on 100% reclaimed waste paper.



JXST++OST+TRVL+  
FREE